

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SSO-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9380

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S SEPTEMBER 23, 1976 PRESS
CONFERENCE -- EXCERPTS ON KOREA

1. AT BEGINNING OF UNGA ON SEPTEMBER 23, GOVERNOR SCRANTON HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN HEADQUARTERS. THE EXCERPTS BELOW GIVING SCRANTON'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RELATED TO KOREA WERE AS HEARD BY THE TRANSCRIPTIONIST. SINCE, AS YET, IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR SCRANTON TO CHECK THE TRANSCRIPT, IT HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN CIRCULATED AS A USUN PRESS RELEASE. ACCORDINGLY, THESE EXCERPTS ARE NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL USUN ISSUES TRANSCRIPT.

2. QUOTE

Q. O.K. VERY GOOD, THIS IS A FRIENDLY CHALLENGE. WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOUR GENERAL STATEMENT THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE NOT REALLY HAMPERING YOU, WOULD BE APPLICABLE FOR INSTANCE TO NAMIBIA AND TO THE VOTE ON VIETNAM AND ALSO TO THE SUDDEN RESOLVING OF THE KOREAN ISSUE, WHICH CERTAINLY ISN'T A LOVEFEST.

A. WELL, I WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS BOTH. LET ME TAKE UP THE KOREAN ONE FIRST. I DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW THE MOTIVATIONS OF THE NORTH KOREANS IN THEIR SUDDEN WITHDRAWAL OF THE ITEM FROM THE AGENDA. BUT CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MOTIVATIONS WAS IT BECAME CLEAR TO THEM THAT THROUGH ALL THE WORK THAT HAD BEEN DONE BY A GREAT MANY DIFFERENT NATIONS THAT THE VOTE THIS YEAR ON THE TWO DIFFERENT RESOLUTIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE DIFFERENT THAN IT HAD BEEN LAST YEAR--NAMELY, THAT THE RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THOSE THAT WERE ADHERENTS OF SOUTH KOREA WOULD HAVE RECEIVED MORE VOTES THAN IT DID LAST YEAR AND THE ONE ON THE NORTH KOREAN SIDE, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF ITS APPARENT EXTREMIST NATURE AS A RESULT OF THEIR DETERMINATION TO MAKE IT SO, AS THEY EXPOSED CLEARLY AT COLOMBO, WOULD HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLY FEWER VOTES THAN IT DID LAST YEAR. NOW THAT, I AM SURE, HAD AN
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IMPACT. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN OTHER REASONS. AS YOU KNOW, THEY EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN THE ATTITUDE THAT WE HAD SHOWN OVER THAT VERY UNFORTUNATE DMZ EPISODE, OUT OF WHICH CAME AT LEAST ONE PLUS WHICH WAS THE RESOLUTION OF SOME PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BEEN BESETTING THE ACTUAL OPERATION IN THE DMZ FOR SOME TIME VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES, IN FACT I THINK TOTALLY SO, AS TO WHAT WE HAVE SUGGESTED MANY YEARS AGO. MAYBE THE NORTH KOREANS WERE THINKING ABOUT THE ELECTION, BUT WE WEREN'T."

Q. GOVERNOR SCRANTON, HAVE YOU HAD ANY SIGN, GOING BACK TO KOREA, THAT THE NORTH KOREANS MIGHT BE MORE INTERESTED NOW, OR LESS NEGATIVE LET'S SAY, THAN THEY WERE IN THE PAST TO THE PROPOSAL OF A CONFERENCE WHICH WAS SUGGESTED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, LAST YEAR?

A. WE HAVE HAD NOTHING ON THAT DIRECTLY, OR, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THAT I COULD PUT MY FINGER ON INDIRECTLY. I CAN MAKE TWO STATEMENTS ABOUT THAT, HOWEVER. ONE IS THAT I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT ARE STRONG FRIENDS OF THE NORTH KOREANS ARE AT LEAST QUIETLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT IF YOU'RE GOING TO REALLY RESOLVE THE KOREAN PROBLEM IT IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO WITHOUT DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTS OF KOREA. I THINK THIS HAD AT LEAST SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ITEM FROM THE AGENDA. SECONDLY, I WOULD SAY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS, ONLY RUMORS, TO THE EFFECT THAT MAYBE SOMETHING MORE NOW IN THE WAY OF AN EFFORT TO BEGIN SUCH A DIALOGUE, PERHAPS INVOLVING OTHERS OF US AS WELL, MIGHT BE CONSIDERED MORE THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE IMMEDIATE OR EVEN IN THE DISTANT PAST."

UNQUOTE
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